

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of:

SMITH, Maurice Lee et al.

Serial No. :

Filed: September 26, 2003

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
IDENTIFYING, REPORTING, AND
EVALUATING PRESENCE OF
SUBSTANCE

Docket No. 34170

Group Art Unit No.

Examiner:

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER M.P.E.P. SECTION 708.02 (XI)

Applicants, through their attorneys, hereby petition for accelerated examination of the above-identified utility patent application under the procedure set forth in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, Section 708.02 (XI).

Annexed hereto is a statement executed by applicants' attorney explaining how the invention contributes to countering terrorism.

The appropriate fee as set forth in 37 C.F.R. Section 1.17(i) is enclosed. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.16 or 1.17 which are associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 19-0522.

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Serial No.

Docket No. 34170

Respectfully submitted,

By Gerhard P. Shipley
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ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT(S)

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STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF
PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL UNDER MPEP §708.02(XI)

Weapons of mass destruction, including chemical, biological, and radioactive substances, are commonly called "the poor man's nuclear weapon" because of their low-cost, ready availability, and potential for death and destruction. These substances are particularly suited for use in terrorism and terrorist attacks, and are a high priority concern in light of recent terrorist activities.

Currently, devices and techniques exist for detecting/identifying, reporting, and evaluating the presences of such threatening substances, but these prior art devices and techniques suffer from a number of disadvantages and limitations that limit their usefulness. For example, they cannot practically and cost-effectively identify all threatening substances of interest; are cumbersome to use and require substantial training; require a human operator to be in close proximity and therefore exposed to the substance; are not customizable with regard to such considerations as cost or capability; and are slow, inefficient, unreliable, or otherwise unsuitable so as to stand in the way of achieving the most timely response possible to a threatening situation. Timely responsiveness, it will be appreciated, is essential during any terrorist attack using threatening substances.

The present invention provides a much improved system and method for identifying, reporting, and evaluating a presence of a chemical, biological, or radioactive solid, liquid, gas, or other threatening substance. The system comprises one or more substantially automated, location self-aware remote sensing units; a control unit; and one or more data processing and storage servers. Data is substantially automatically collected by the remote sensing units and transmitted to the control unit; the control unit generates and uploads a report incorporating the data to the servers; and thereafter the report is available for review by a hierarchy of responsive and evaluative authorities via a wide area network. The evaluative authorities include a group of relevant experts who may be widely or even globally distributed.

It will be appreciated that the present invention overcomes many of the disadvantages and limitations of the prior art to achieve a more timely response and thereby minimize the number of lives lost and the destruction caused by a terrorist attack using threatening substances. Thus, the Applicant believes that the present invention has important use in countering acts of terrorism, and respectfully requests that the above-identified patent application be accorded special status for expedited examination.

Respectfully Submitted,

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